

MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN THE 2012 CAMPAIGN

ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE RUNS THROUGH IOWA



WHO'S WHO IN THE
ILLUSTRATION ABOVE?
SEE KEY, PAGE 8A

MARK MARTURELLO/REGISTER ILLUSTRATION



1 Apr. 22, 2009
Newton — Three months after his inauguration, President Barack Obama tours an Iowa wind-energy plant and talks up his administration's renewable-energy efforts.



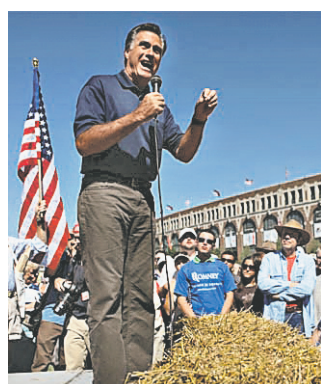
3 Mar. 25, 2010
Iowa City — Just days after signing into law the health care overhaul soon to be known as Obamacare, Barack Obama meets a friendly crowd of 3,000 at the University of Iowa.



5 Sept. 17, 2010
Des Moines — One-time vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin sounds a call to arms for angry and out-of-power Republicans as headliner of a sold-out Iowa GOP fundraiser.



7 Oct. 8, 2010
Iowa — Tim Pawlenty installs paid staffers and commits three full days to traveling in Iowa, setting up his presidential run.



14 Aug. 10, 2011
Iowa — Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, with son Rand Paul, barnstorms Mason City, Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Des Moines with a libertarian message ahead of the Iowa straw poll.

15 Aug. 11, 2011
Des Moines — Speaking from the Des Moines Register Soapbox at the Iowa State Fair, Mitt Romney utters one of the most memorable catchphrases of the 2012 cycle: "Corporations are people, my friend."

16 Aug. 11, 2011
Ames — Eight GOP hopefuls share the stage at a debate sponsored by Fox News, the Washington Examiner and the Republican Party of Iowa ahead of the Iowa straw poll.

17 Aug. 13, 2011
Ames — U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann is the surprise winner of the Iowa straw poll, the closely watched but ultimately meaningless GOP-activist confab at Iowa State University.

18 Aug. 13, 2011
Charleston, S.C. — Playing spotlight stealer, Texas Gov. Rick Perry announces his candidacy from South Carolina while other candidates are hustling for votes at the Iowa straw poll in Ames. He visits Waterloo the next day.

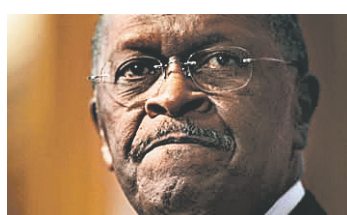
19 Aug. 14, 2011
Ames — Tim Pawlenty quits the campaign after a disappointing third-place finish in the straw poll.

20 Sept. 3, 2011
Indianola — Still flirting with a presidential run, Palin headlines a tea party rally in Indianola. The next morning, she runs a half marathon in Storm Lake.

21 Nov. 9, 2011
Hanover, N.H. — In one of the most damaging flubs in presidential debate history, Rick Perry can't remember the third of three federal agencies he plans to abolish: education, commerce and . . . energy.



22 Nov. 19, 2011
Des Moines — Six GOP candidates gather for the Family Leader's Thanksgiving Family Forum at a Des Moines church.



23 Dec. 3, 2011
Atlanta, Ga. — Facing allegations of sexual harassment and an extramarital affair, businessman Herman Cain drops out of the Republican race. Polls in Iowa and nationally had briefly showed him leading the Republican field.

24 Dec. 10, 2011
Des Moines — A debate sponsored by ABC News, The Des Moines Register and the Republican Party of Iowa at Drake University features the top six caucus contenders: Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum.

25 Dec. 15, 2011
Sioux City — The Fox News and Republican Party of Iowa debate in Sioux City is the last of three GOP candidate debates in Iowa.

26 Dec. 16, 2011
Iowa — In a caucus-campaign hail Mary, Bachmann undertakes the fastest-ever Full Grassley, visiting all 99 Iowa counties in 11 frenzied days.

33 Feb. 9, 2012
Des Moines — First lady Michelle Obama touts her children's-health initiative in her first Iowa appearance of 2012.



35 Apr. 10, 2012
Gettysburg, Pa. — Iowa caucuses victor Rick Santorum quits his campaign.

36 May 2, 2012
Arlington, Va. — Newt Gingrich drops his bid for the GOP nomination.

37 May 14, 2012
Ron Paul announces on his website he will cease campaigning, although supporters soldier on seeking convention delegates.

38 May 15, 2012
Des Moines — A Mitt Romney rally in Des Moines is his first Iowa event since caucus night.

39 May 29, 2012
Following the Texas primary, Mitt Romney secures the delegates needed to clinch his nomination.



44 Aug. 13, 2012
Iowa — A three-day bus tour takes Barack Obama from Council Bluffs to Davenport, with 12 stops (and a few beers) in between.

45 Aug. 13, 2012
Des Moines — A day after he's named the Republican vice presidential candidate, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan visits the Iowa State Fair.

46 Aug. 30, 2012
Tampa, Fla. — Mitt Romney accepts his party's nomination at the Republican convention; 22 of Iowa's 28 delegates go for Paul.

50 Oct. 3, 2012
Denver, Colo. — Mitt Romney scores a decisive victory over Barack Obama in the first presidential debate, marking a turning point in the race and new momentum for Romney.

51 Oct. 18, 2012
Ames — Bruce Springsteen goes acoustic for Barack Obama with a five-song set at Hilton Coliseum. The Boss is just one of many celebrities to campaign on the president's behalf in Iowa.

52 Oct. 24, 2012
Eastern Iowa — Mitt Romney and Barack Obama go head to head again in Iowa: Obama rallies in Davenport; Romney rocks Cedar Rapids.

53 Oct. 28, 2012
Des Moines — The Des Moines Register and three other top Iowa newspapers endorse Mitt Romney.

54 Oct. 31, 2012
Waterloo — Former President Bill Clinton campaigns in Iowa for Obama.



2009

2 Nov. 7, 2009
Des Moines — Then-Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is perhaps the first Republican presidential aspirant into the Iowa field, with a speech at a party fundraiser in Des Moines.



4 Aug. 19, 2010
Des Moines — Former Republican U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum offers early signals of his presidential intentions with a pork chop-flippin', concourse-walkin' tour of the Iowa State Fair.

3 Apr. 4, 2011
Barack Obama announces his re-election campaign in an email blast to 13 million supporters. "This will be my final campaign, at least as a candidate," he writes.

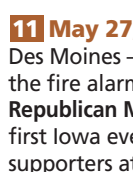


5 Apr. 25, 2011
Jackson, Miss. — Then-Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour declines to run.

2010



10 May 23, 2011
Indianapolis, Ind. — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels announces he will not run.



11 May 27, 2011
Des Moines — A bag of burned popcorn trips the fire alarm and cuts short former Republican Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's first Iowa event of 2011, a speech to 300 supporters at the State Historical Building.



12 May 31, 2011
Princeton, N.J. — Unsatisfied with the pool of likely Republican candidates, seven of Iowa's GOP heavy-hitters fly to New Jersey hoping to recruit Gov. Chris Christie into the field. No dice.

13 June 28, 2011
Bettendorf — Obama seeks to boost his credentials on job-creation in the manufacturing sector with a visit to Alcoa in Bettendorf.

27 Jan. 3, 2012
Iowa — Iowa's caucus season closes with its tightest-ever result. After midnight, Republicans declare Mitt Romney the winner by eight votes, but that's not the end of the story . . .

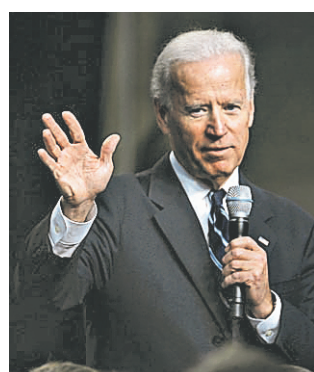
28 Jan. 4, 2012
West Des Moines — The morning after finishing sixth, Michele Bachmann ends her campaign at a West Des Moines hotel.

29 Jan. 18, 2012
Iowa — After days of vote-counting confusion, Republicans certify Iowa's caucus results showing an extremely close race between Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum but decline to name a winner.

30 Jan. 19, 2012
North Charleston, S.C. — Rick Perry drops out of the race for the Republican nomination.

31 Jan. 20, 2012
Iowa — Facing harsh criticism, Iowa Republicans reverse course and declare Rick Santorum the winner of the Iowa caucuses, by 34 votes.

32 Jan. 25, 2012
Cedar Rapids — Barack Obama's first visit to Iowa in 2012 is an official event at a Cedar Rapids manufacturing business.



34 Mar. 1, 2012
Ames — Vice President Joe Biden visits Iowa State University's campus in his first Iowa appearance of 2012.

2011

40 June 16, 2012
Des Moines — Ron Paul supporters dominate the Iowa GOP convention and pack the national delegation with Paul backers.

41 June 18, 2012
Dubuque — Mitt Romney's wife, Ann, makes her first 2012 Iowa appearance with a boat ride with supporters in Dubuque.



42 June 26, 2012
Iowa — Joe Biden hits a union hall, a diner and a soda fountain in a two-day swing through northeast Iowa.

43 July 13, 2012
Roanoke, Va. — Obama's "You didn't build that" line reignites a Republican charge that he's unfriendly to business.

2012

47 Sept. 6, 2012
Charlotte, N.C. — Barack Obama accepts the nomination at the Democratic convention.



48 Sept. 7, 2012
Iowa — Mitt Romney and Barack Obama duel in Iowa: Romney's in Orange City; Obama, with Michelle, Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, fire up Iowa City.

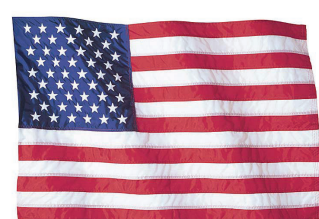
49 Sept. 18, 2012
Mother Jones magazine publishes Mitt Romney's infamous "47 percent" video, in which he seems to write off millions of Americans as dependent on government.

55 Nov. 3, 2012
Dubuque — First Mitt Romney then Barack Obama make their last in-person pitches to voters in eastern Iowa — and Wisconsin visitors.

56 Nov. 4, 2012
Des Moines — At his last rally in Iowa, Mitt Romney tells a crowd of 4,400 at Hy-Vee Hall: "I need Iowa so I can win the White House."

57 Nov. 5, 2012
Des Moines — Paul Ryan whips up supporters at the Des Moines airport. On his final campaign stop in Iowa, Barack Obama again enlists the help of rocker Bruce Springsteen.

58 Nov. 6, 2012
National — Election Day.



DESIGNED BY KATIE KUNERT/THE REGISTER